

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 4214

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR GR
SUBJECT: LONDON MEETING BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS AND
CLARK CLIFFORD: DISCUSSION WITH BITSIOS

REF: STATE 103143

1. I MET PRIVATELY THIS MORNING WITH FORMIN BITSIOS
JUST TO TOUCH BASE WITH HIM ON A SMALL NUMBER
OF TOPICS BEFORE HE DEPARTED THIS WEEKEND WITH
CARAMANLIS FOR LONDON (BRIEF SUMMARY OF THIS DISCUSSION
TO BE REPORTED SEPTEL - ALTHOUGH NOT MUCH NEW).

2. BITSIOS WAS UP TO SPEED ON THE PROPOSED MEETING IN
LONDON BETWEEN CLARK CLIFFORD AND CARAMANLIS, WHICH I
HAD DISCUSSED ON THE TELEPHONE LAST NIGHT WITH
MOLYVIATIS AND DEPT OFFICERS. I TOLD HIM THAT CLIFFORD
APPRECIATED CARAMANLIS PROPOSAL TO MEET AT THE
INN ON THE PARK HOTEL AT 11:15AM, MONDAY MAY 9,
BUT THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO MEET LATER THAT DAY
IF A CONVENIENT TIME COULD BE FOUND. I SAID THAT
CLIFFORD WAS ONLY SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN LONDON AT
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8:30 AM THAT MORNING AFTER AN OVERNIGHT FLIGHT FROM
WASHINGTON AND THERE WAS ALWAYS THE POSSIBILITY THAT
THE FLIGHT WOULD BE DELAYED OR SOME OTHER COMPLICATING
FACTOR THAT WOULD APPEAR TO MAKE A LATER TIME MORE
ADVISABLE. RECOGNIZING THAT CARAMANLIS HAD A HEAVY
PROGRAM OF OTHER MEETINGS WHILE IN LONDON, CLIFFORD
WOULD OF COURSE ACCEPT THE 11:15 TIME IF NOTHING ELSE

COULD BE WORKED OUT.

3. BITSIOS GOT OUT CARAMANLIS SCHEDULE IN LONDON AND TURNED TO MONDAY. I WAS ABLE TO GET SOME IDEA OF IT UPSIDE DOWN. IT SEEMED CHOCK-A-BLOCK WITH MEETINGS ON ABOUT AN HOURLY BASIS ALL DAY LONG. BITSIOS FIGURED AND FIGURED AND SAID THAT 11:15 AM APPEARED TO BE THE ONLY AVAILABLE TIME. HOWEVER HE SUGGESTED I CONTINUE TO WORK WITH MOLYVIATIS AND PERHAPS MOLYVIATIS COULD SWITCH SOMETHING AROUND. (I HAVE BEEN TRYING TO REACH MOLYVIATIS THIS MORNING BUT THUS FAR HAVE NOT SUCCEEDED. WILL SEND A SUBSEQUENT BRIEF MESSAGE ON THIS SUBJECT AFTER I HAVE DONE SO).

4. I SAID THAT CLIFFORD ALSO WAS LOOKING FORWARD AND HOPING TO HAVE A LONG, SUBSTANTIVE MEETING WITH BITSIOS HIMSELF, PERHAPS ON MAY 10 OR 11, FOLLOWING THE PRESIDENTS MEETING WITH CARAMANLIS. BITSIOS SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS THIS POSSIBILITY WITH CLIFFORD WHEN HE SAW HIM AT THE MONDAY CARAMANLIS MEETING; HOWEVER, HE THOUGHT THAT THAT MONDAY MEETING MIGHT HAVE TO SERVE THE DOUBLE PURPOSE OF CLIFFORD'S MEETING WITH BOTH HIM (BITSIOS) AND CARAMANLIS. THE REASON WAS THAT BITSIOS WAS EQUALLY IF NOT MORE FULLY OCCUPIED THAN CARAMANLIS. HE HAD TO BE PRESENT WHEN CARAMANLIS HAD HIS BILATERAL MEETINGS WITH ALL THE OTHER PRIME MINISTERS, AND AT THE COUNCIL SESSIONS AND EVENTS AS WELL. IF HE WERE ABLE TO ARRANGE ANY PRIVATE MEETINGS SEPARATE FROM CARAMANLIS THERE

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WERE SOME VERY PRIORITY MEETINGS WITH OTHER FOREIGN MINISTERS THAT SHOULD BE HELD. IN ANY CASE HE SAID HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THIS PERSONALLY WITH CLIFFORD ON MONDAY.
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